



April 21, 2000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 2000

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:

John B. Townsend II, 202/586-5806

Energy Secretary Richardson Directs Department To Buy More 'Green Power'

Directive Issued As Part of Department's Earth Day Initiative

Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson today directed the Department of Energy (DOE) to purchase a portion of its electricity from renewable energy sources. DOE is the first federal agency to make a department-wide commitment to purchase its electricity from green power sources. Green power is electricity produced from non-hydro renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, geothermal and biomass. Currently, between 2 percent to 3 percent of all electricity sold in the country comes from renewable sources of energy.

"As the world celebrates the 30th anniversary of Earth Day, this directive will establish the department as a leader in achieving President Clinton's goal of using more clean, efficient and renewable energy sources," said Secretary Richardson. "To that end, I am directing the Energy Department to buy 3 percent of its total electricity needs from non-hydro renewable energy sources by 2005, and 7.5 percent of its total electricity purchases from green power by 2010."

In June 1999, President Clinton issued Executive Order 13123, Greening the Government through Efficient Energy Management, which says that "each agency shall strive to use electricity from clean, efficient and renewable energy sources." In certain cases, DOE officials may find that electricity produced from green power costs more than electricity produced using other energy sources, such as conventional fossil fuels. In those instances, DOE will use the incremental costs saved from energy projects or savings obtained through lower energy costs as a result of retail electric competition.

In addition, as states deregulate their electricity industries, the Energy Department will compete for its electricity supply and expects that it will often be able to obtain lower costs. By combining the lower cost electricity with some portion of moderately more expensive renewable electricity, DOE will not increase its overall utility bill.

- DOE -